PHILIPS sense and simplicity

Proton Therapy System

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Restructuring of Philips Corporate Technologies



Project Context

- External customer
- Proton Therapy System (Medical Device, Class C IEC:62304)
- (Single) software component not stable
 - Working for several years with multiple teams
 - No accreditation \rightarrow facility may not be used to treat patients

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Simulator based development & testing of a sub-system

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Goal:

Share some backgrounds on the simulation based development/test environment setup that has become a "best practice" in Philips Research.







Why simulators

- Real product not available
 - intelligent stubbing (development / integration / testing)
- Interface specification incomplete (actual status exists in code)
 - Qualitative good interface documentation
 - Used as acceptance criteria (\rightarrow gap management)
- Unbalanced requirements of TCS
 - User observable behavior
- Need to exercise special situations
 - You can't just stop a cyclotron
 - Playing around with protons is dangerous

Development Environment



Simulator requirements

- Must display user observable state & behavior
- Option to enable automatic scenario support
- Possibility to alter timing and "simulator generated data"
- Controls to trigger exceptional situations
- Controls to trigger "out-of-specification" behavior
- Logging
- API: execute action, set/get properties, wait for states

Simulator: appearance

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Automatic test architecture



Application Test Interface

• GUI Record/Playback tool (Rational Robot)



- Difficulties in recognition of screen elements
- Script execution very sensible for external (window) events
- Script language and development environment not state of the art
- Tests can only use visible information on the screen

Difficult to check the absence of elements

Application Test Interface (2)

- Test Interface
 - Use the MVVM paradigm (based on MS-WPF)
 - Views do not have any additional intelligence
 - The View-Model interface is defined as a remoting interface, used by the Domain Specific Library
 - Used for functional tests (appearance is tested "manually")



Summary

- Discussed some aspects used to set-up a generic (automated) development/test environment based on simulators
 - Balanced requirements
 - Simulate 2nd order and "out-of-specification" behavior
 - Automatic basic workflow
 - Logging
 - Provide an API to all elements of the execution environment
 - Application under development
 - Simulators
 - "Domain Specific Library" to control the environment

Concluding

- We have applied this set-up successfully in multiple projects (we think it's worth the investment)
- The particular Proton Therapy Centre is currently operational and patients are being treated with the system



